



## Riverdale News

### An Update for Parents and Families

Ecole Riverdale Elementary...*Learning, Caring and Doing Our Best*

**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

\*\*Posted bi-weekly on the School Website

### **A Word from Your Principal**

This is our last bulletin for 2015...the time has zipped by quickly, and we have so much to celebrate! Thank you to so many parents for coming to our parent/teacher learning conferences. We hope the reports and feedback through Freshgrade portfolios have given you greater insights into your child's learning so far this year. We look forward to many more conversations and opportunities to talk about your child's learning in the New Year.

Our girls and boys volleyball teams ended the season on a high note with outstanding games at their Playday, hosted by Erma Stephenson. While the teams at Erma gave Riverdale a run for their money, our Ravens soared with pride, outstanding effort, skill and sportsmanship. Many thanks to our coaches, Mr. Speak and Mme Maharaj, for sharing their time, talent and endless sense of humour with the teams. It was a fantastic season! Basketball begins right off the mark in January. Mr. Andrada, the parent of three children at Riverdale, will be helping coach. Over the holidays, if you would like to get your child in the basketball spirit, there is family basketball drop-in at the Guildford Recreation Centre, from 6:15pm to 7:30pm on Tuesdays.

Our wonderful Christmas Concerts last week showcased the incredible spirit, heart and talent of all of our students, and the inspiring commitment of our staff. A special thank you to Mr. Clark, our extraordinary musical wizard! It takes a great deal of coordination for many weeks to rehearse, prepare scripts, organize ticket sales, refine and "keep a steady beat", and Riverdale staff and students managed the process with grace and style. Thank you to all of our parents, families and friends who came out to support the children, our music program, and the food bank!

An additional thank you to everyone who supported the Grade 7 Camp fundraising initiative through the 50/50 draw. Mr. Richard Wood organized the event, and we ended up raising almost \$500 towards camp! A very special thank you to the anonymous afternoon draw winner. As I left the gym, Mr. Loosemore informed me of the generous donation. The winner of \$105 decided to give it back to the school. Such generosity is yet another example of how Riverdale has an enormous HEART!

Our industrious PAC room has had many elves busily preparing Purdy's chocolate orders, Cookie Dough delivery, Movie Night tickets and concession goodies, and beautiful raffle baskets. They are busy gathering the totals for all of their fundraising efforts, and we are so grateful for all of their time and effort. Not only does our PAC work to raise money, but they provide wonderful experiences for our families, such as the recent "Cool Runnings" movie night. Many thanks!

I feel blessed to be part of this school, and I thank you for such a warm welcome to the Riverdale community. May you enjoy a wonderful holiday, filled with all that you and your family need at this time of year. Love, peace and joy to you throughout the holidays and the year ahead.

Principal: Leah Christensen

Vice Principal: Gary Loosemore

[surreyschools.ca/riverdale](http://surreyschools.ca/riverdale)

Tel. 604.588.5978

## **Volunteer Policy \*\*posted on the school website**

Ecole Riverdale Elementary values volunteers in our school community, and there are many activities where a teacher would appreciate your support. Please be advised that the district has established the following procedures in order to ensure the smooth, safe and effective functioning of our school:

- ✓ Anyone interested in volunteering should first check with the teacher to set up a mutually suitable time and activity.
- ✓ All visitors and volunteers in the school must come to the office to sign in upon arriving at school.
- ✓ It is imperative that volunteers respect student and parent/guardian confidentiality.
- ✓ The Riverdale Code of Conduct guides all interactions amongst students, staff and volunteers. We have a safe and caring school that is free from acts of:
  - Bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment
  - Threats and intimidation
  - Violence in any form
  - Abuse in any form
  - Discrimination in any form, including race, colour, gender, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or ancestry

Should a volunteer have any concerns, please report directly to the school administration. Thank you.

## **Early French Immersion Kindergarten Registration for Siblings, 2016-2017 School Year**

Siblings of children presently enrolled in a Surrey District Early French Immersion Class (up to and including grade 6) will be given priority for Kindergarten registration **in the same program at the same school until FRIDAY, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 3pm**. Please see the attached information for registration details. Merci.

## **Grade 7 Updates**

### **Email Addresses**

If you didn't send a current email address to your child's teacher, please do so. We would like to generate a complete grade 7 parent email list by January. Thank you.

### **Camp Bottle Drive – Guildford Bottle Depot**

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Suzuki for setting up an account with the Guildford Bottle Depot (Unit 100 – 14727 108A Ave). The account name is: **Riverdale 2016 Grad**. To donate to the Grade 7 Camp fund, upon your bottle return, give them the account name, and they will give you a receipt. We will have a box in the office to deposit your receipts. Thank you!

### **Grade 7 Baby Photos**

Naomi Suzuki, the older sibling of Koji Suzuki in division 2, has generously offered to compile baby pictures for the celebration slide show. So far, she has received photos for only three students. We hope to have all children represented. Please note the following information:

- Photos are to be sent digitally to [riverdale2016grad@gmail.com](mailto:riverdale2016grad@gmail.com)
- Send a maximum of **three** photos (baby, early years)
- In the subject line, please include the students' full name and division.

Thank you!

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## **Au revoir et Merci Mme Maharaj!**

We wish to congratulate Mme Maharaj on the recent news of her appointment to Vice Principal at James Ardiel Elementary. The announcement was confirmed on Friday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>, and she will begin her new role in January. Mme Maharaj has been an outstanding, generous and inspirational teacher at Ecole Riverdale for the past seven years, and we will miss her positive “can do” spirit and leadership! We wish her the very best as she begins a new year in a new school community. On behalf of all those who have had the pleasure to know and work with Mme Maharaj, *merci pour tout!*

We are thrilled to welcome Mme Jablone back to Riverdale into the grade 4/5 FRIM class. Mme Jablone has been part of the Riverdale community for the past year during her successful teaching practicum, and will be working with Mme Maharaj this week to ensure a smooth transition for students.

## **Kindergarten Registration**

Registration for the 2016-2017 school year begins on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Please see the attachment for details.

## **PALS Session #1 “ABCs and Learning”– January 8<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**

Parents and their pre-school aged children are invited to the library on Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> for our first PALS session. This is a fun, interactive program that is designed to support parents’ understanding of early literacy development, and to have children have positive experiences in a school setting. Please see the attached notice for further information and registration details.

## **School Safety**

In order to ensure your child is safe at school, it is district policy that parents first check in at the office before going anywhere else in the school. If you need to contact your child, we will call down to your child’s classroom to inform the teacher of your arrival. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

We have another request from the district asking you to please remind your child to be safe and stay off high objects while on school property. This includes climbing trees, garbage/recycle bins, etc. There have been some instances in the district where students have fallen and been seriously injured. Thank you.

## **Pyjama and Movie Day!**

On Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, students and staff are invited to wear their cozy pyjamas as we host a primary and intermediate movie in the gym to launch the holidays! The primary movie is a classic, the original “Toy Story” (rated “G”). The intermediate movie is another favourite, “Elf” (rated PG). “Elf” is considered “family friendly” for ages 8 and up and has become a holiday classic. Please speak with your child’s teacher if you have any concerns.

## **Lost and Found – the bins are full!**

Starting Tuesday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, Lost and Found items will be emptied from the bins and on display in the hallway. Anything not claimed by the end of the day on Thursday will be bagged and donated. Please check the items with your child before Thursday.

## Looking Ahead

- Monday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – Teachers vs. Girls' Volleyball Team at lunch (\$1 entry – grade 7 camp fundraiser)
- Tuesday, Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> – Teachers vs. Boys' Volleyball Team at lunch (\$1 entry – grade 7 camp fundraiser)
- Friday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – Last day of classes before Winter Break – Pyjama and movie day!
- Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup> – Happy New Year and Welcome back! First day of classes in 2016.
- Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> – 9am PAC Meeting
- Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> – 1pm – Riverdale's first PALS session in the library
- Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup> – 5pm – Grade 7 Camp Fundraising and Year End Celebration Committee Meeting
- Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup> – Last day for Early French Immersion Kindergarten Registration for *siblings* of French Immersion students enrolled at Riverdale (registration closes at 3:00 pm on this day)
- Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – Kindergarten Registration (2016-2017) begins
- Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> – 1pm – Jump Rope for Heart Assembly
- Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup> – On-line application opens for French Immersion Lottery (for all families)
- Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup> - 9am Primary SOAR Assembly; 10.45am Intermediate SOAR Assembly